



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Parolee Charged with Escaping from Custody in Van Nuys**

A 24-year-old parolee has been charged with escaping from a parole agent near the Van Nuys Civic Center, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office today.

Fidel Topete (dob 11/4/90) was charged yesterday with one felony count of escape by force or violence.

Case LA080924 alleges a 2012 conviction for first-degree burglary.

Topete pleaded not guilty today and is due to return on May 20 in Department 120 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Van Nuys Branch.

On May 4, two parole agents placed Topete into custody for a violation of the terms of his parole and placed him in the back of the agency vehicle, prosecutors said. Upon arrival at Van Nuys jail, the defendant allegedly started banging his head and crying loudly while still on the car.

Prosecutors said when they stopped the car to deal with Topete, the defendant allegedly opened the rear passenger door, kicked an agent on the wrist, jumped over the ledge of a ramp and fled on foot. Topete was later found with the help of a canine in a nearby carport storage cabinet at a nearby yard. He was still handcuffed.

If convicted as charged, Topete faces a maximum possible sentence of 13 years in state prison.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department, Van Nuys Station.

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### **About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office**

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice

for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.